GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:277
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006
EIA NORMS
Jindal Shri Naveen;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently announced the new Environmental Impact Assessment norms relaxing the rules for obtaining environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details of the methodology adopted therefor;

(c) the extent to which the various sectors are likely to be benefited from the norms;

(d) whether the methodology adopted by the Government has been criticised by various NGOs/industries;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the grounds for such criticism;

(f) whether Panchayati Raj institutions are proposed to be consulted before the finalisation of such norms;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A.RAJA)

(a) to (h) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 277 FOR 11.12.2006 REGARDING EIA NORMS RAISED BY SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR AND SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL

(a) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 has been notified on 14th September, 2006 to make the EIA process more efficient, decentralized and transparent.

(b) The methodology adopted in bringing out the EIA Notification of 14th September, 2006 inter alia included comprehensive review of the EIA Notification, 1994 and Environmental Clearance process undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), recommendations for the regulatory reforms by the Govindarajan Committee constituted by the Central Government, detailed consultations with the State Environment Ministers and Secretaries, relevant Central Government Ministries/Departments, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Industry Associations, issuing a draft EIA Notification on 15th September 2005 inviting objections/comments from all the affected individuals /organizations within the stipulated period of 60 days, compiling and reviewing all the comments received and holding further consultations with all the concerned stakeholders.

(c) For prior Environmental Clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006, benefits to the project proponents will accrue mainly because of the decentralization and efficiency of processing envisaged therein.

(d) & (e)All valid suggestions made during the consultations have been included appropriately in the Notification.

(f), (g) & (h)Does not arise since wide consultations with all relevant stakeholders were held before finalization of the Notification as brought out in reply to part (b) above.